



BLM News

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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WATER CANYON RECREATION AREA IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

July 14, 2006 – Winnemucca, Nev. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Winnemucca Field Office is making progress with its recreation plan for Water Canyon. For many years, Water Canyon, located just a few miles south of town, with its shady glens and flowing stream has been a favorite escape for Winnemuccans. But up to now there have been very few facilities in the area. However, that is beginning to change. A 1.9-mile hiking trail with 0.2-mile spur trail to an overlook point is being constructed right now with the help of five hot shot fire fighting crews temporarily stationed in the Winnemucca area.

Members of the Idaho City, Boise, Wolf Creek, Ruby Mountains, and Silver State Hot Shot crews, from several federal agencies, are in the area at the request of BLM's Winnemucca Field Office to bolster fire fighting capability in a time of high heat and wind and heavy fuels that increase the severity of wildfires when they occur. On days when there is no firefighting to do, the crew members often perform other valuable work for the units they're visiting. In this instance, the Idaho City, Boise and Wolf Creek crews constructed a new hiking trail while the Ruby Mountains and Silver State crews cut down dead and hazard trees and removed excess fuels, known as hazard fuels, in Water Canyon.

"We're always looking for help with the work in Water Canyon and really appreciate the great job these hot shot crew members are doing for us up there," said Water Canyon Project Lead Mark Ennes.

By year's end, the trail, ten picnic/camp sites, a campground host site, and three toilet buildings should be in place in Water Canyon, making a wonderful place to visit even better.

Information on how to volunteer to work in Water Canyon or about the project itself is available by contacting Ennes at the BLM Winnemucca Field Office at 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd, or by calling him at 775-623-1500.



July 11, 2006 - Hot Shot firefighting crews from several federal agencies build trail in Water Canyon just south of Winnemucca.